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(b) The Nilgiri Power Syndicate has a licence to supply electric energy to Wellington, Ootacamund, Coonoor and within 5 miles outside Coimbatore. The Syndicate had also a concession for the development of power from the Kundah river, but that has lapsed. Another syndicate in England has had a concession for the generation of power from the Pykara river; but as stated in the answer to question No. 399 the Government have been negotiating for the purchase of this concession and have recently brought the negotiations to a conclusion.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" With reference to the answer given in clause (b), may I know whether there are only two companies to whom licences were issued? I thought there were three."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" At the present moment it is only the Pykara concession which has been purchased."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" The Syndicate is outstanding."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Yes."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" These are all yesterday's questions and answers. Most of the Members have not got copies of them. If there are spare copies we shall be obliged if they are supplied to us."

Irrigation.

Irrigation in Palayakayal village, Tinnevelly district.

*401 Q.—Rao Bahadur CRUZ FERNANDEZ : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the ryots of Palayakayal village, Srivaikuntam taluk, Tinnevelly district, have memorialised Government regarding the irrigation of the lands under Palayakayal tank in their village ; and

(b) if so, what has been done with the said memorial and whether any orders have been passed to inquire into the statements contained therein?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The memorial has been sent to the Chief Engineer.

Separate channel for Palayakayal tank.

*402 Q.—Rao Bahadur CRUZ FERNANDEZ : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Palayakayal tank was originally designed to be fed by the North main channel system and whether the ryots of the said village have contributed a sum of Rs. 1,420 in the year 1869 with an express condition that a separate channel would be given to the Palayakayal tank from Peikulam tank ;

(b) whether it is a fact that their village tank was originally fed through a separate sluice No. 4 of Peikulam tank which is still called ' Kayal Madai ' in the bed of which the North main channel runs ;

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(c) whether it is a fact that the supply from the sluice does not now reach the Palayakayal tank owing to the gradual conversion of dry lands into wet to the extent of 550 acres between Iruvappapuram—Kumarapuram;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Palayakayal tank has now to depend solely on the scanty supply available from the Arumugamangalam tank surplus, which has a direct irrigation of about 350 acres and which also scarcely reaches the Palayakayal tank; and

(e) whether it is a fact that this source is both precarious and unsatisfactory on account of its faulty situation?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The registered source of supply to the tank is sluice No. 4 of the Peikulam tank under the North main channel of the Srivaikuntam anicut system. No information is available about the alleged contribution from the ryots in 1869.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) & (*e*) The tank now gets its supply from the Arumugamangalam tank surplus; the question whether further improvements are necessary has been referred to the Chief Engineer as stated in the answer to question No. 242.

Remission of land revenue on lands under Palayakayal tank.

* 403 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur CRUZ FERNANDEZ: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the lands under the Palayakayal tank have suffered periodically for want of sufficient supply of water and that, in consequence, Government have been granting remission of land revenue, year after year, on account of failure or poor outturn of crops;

(b) whether it is a fact that a conference of the ryots was held at Iruvappapuram on the 18th May 1925 under the direction of the Sub-Collector, Tuticorin;

(c) whether it is a fact that at that conference it was proposed by the Sub-Collector that a separate supply channel should be provided from sluice No. 1 of Peikulam tank to ensure a regular and sufficient supply to Palayakayal tank and that the ryots have agreed to bear 20 per cent of the cost of the proposed new supply channel; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to carry out or investigate the above proposal?

A.—The Government have no detailed information on the points raised; but as stated in their answer to question No. 242 they have received a petition in which reference is made to the meeting with Sub-Collector and the proposals made at it, and they have referred the matter to the Chief Engineer.

Irrigation in Nellore district.

* 404 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that during the investigations of the Irrigation Commission, 1901–03, Nellore district was included in the famine zone of the Presidency along with the Ceded districts?